

—1789.—

HISTORY

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WITH

Illustrations and Biographical Sketches

OF

SOME OF ITS PROMINENT MEN AND PIONEERS.

BY ELLIOT G. STORKE.

ASSISTED BY

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—1879.—

He was succeeded by V. Hull, who commenced his labors October 1st, 1848. March 14th, 1849, a call was given to A. Boughton, who closed his labors April 1st, 1858. They seem to have been without a regular pastor from that time till the third Sunday in November, 1858, when Nathan Whitney commenced his labors, though Elder Ames was invited to supply the pulpit as much as he could. Elder Whitney closed his labors December 10th, 1858. A. Boughton supplied the pulpit till June 1st, 1860. September 8th, 1860, a call was extended to Roswell Corbett, who served them six months. June 17th, 1861, a call was given to A. T. Boynton, who closed his labors the last Sunday in March, 1865. He was immediately succeeded by Albert Cole. May 11th, 1867, Elder Jones, of Scott, a Sabbatarian, was engaged half the time. March 16th, 1868, a call was extended to Wm. Wilkins, of Summer Hill, who was dismissed April 8th, 1871. Alanson Boughton labored with them from June 10th, 1871, to August 9th, 1873. A. W. Coon of Scott, a Sabbatarian, is the present pastor. The present membership is fifty.

GLEN HAVEN WATER CURE AND SUMMER RESORT, at Glen Haven, located on the east line of the town, at the head of Skaneateles Lake, has acquired a favorable notoriety from its delightful situation, picturesque scenery, for its salubrity and excellent accommodations.

It is now conducted by Dr. Wm. C. Thomas, John H. Mourin and James A. Schermerhorn. There are eighteen buildings, including a main three-story building and eight good-sized cottages, neatly and comfortably furnished, which afford accommodations for two hundred patients and boarders. During the summer it is connected daily with the Auburn Branch of the N. Y. C. R. R. by boat at Skaneateles and thence by rail to Skaneateles Junction, and with the D., L. & W. R. R. by stage at Homer, ten miles distant. It is supplied with an abundance of pure soft water which descends from the hill rising, immediately in its rear, to the height of 1,000 feet above the Lake.

Samuel Scott was the first settler at the Glen; but the property was owned by David Hall of Skaneateles, who built a part of the *Glen Haven House* for a hotel, and sold it to Dr. Gleason and Miss Gilbert, who converted it into a water-cure in 1845. The establishment was burned about

1853. After a few years Dr. Jackson was admitted to partnership and subsequently succeeded to the business. Wm. L. Chaplain succeeded Dr. Jackson and married Miss Gilbert, who from the first was connected with and had a controlling interest in the establishment, and gave the place its name. It subsequently passed into the hands of Thomas & King; the former of whom is a member of the present firm.

CHAPTER LI.

TOWN OF GENOA.

GENOA was organized as *Milton* by the Court of General Sessions, January 27th, 1789, and its name changed April 6th, 1808. It originally embraced the towns of Locke, Summer Hill, and Groton in Tompkins county, which were set off as Locke, February 20th, 1802; and Lansing in Tompkins county, which was set off on the erection of that county, April 7th, 1817. It derives its name from Genoa in Piedmont, Italy. It lies upon Cayuga Lake, which forms its western boundary, and in the south-west corner of the County. It is bounded on the north by Ledyard and Venice, on the east by Locke, and on the south by Lansing. Its shape is oblong, being ten miles long from east to west and four miles across from north to south.

The surface though having a general inclination toward the Lake, is beautifully diversified and presents some highly picturesque scenery. The principal indentations are the valleys of the Salmon Creek and its western branch the Little Salmon, which streams flow south through the central part of the town and unite near the south line, and are the only ones of any considerable importance. "The land along the shore, rising rather abruptly a mile inland, abounds in deep ravines, sporting slender streams, whirling and eddying over the shale rock, of which the base of the soil is formed. From thence to the summit ridge, the rolling surface rises gradually to an elevation of 600 feet above the Lake."

Eastward from the summit ridge, "the declivities appear in rapid succession, often abruptly, 50 to 150 feet, to Little Salmon Creek. The east

branch, Big Salmon, is divided from the west branch by beautifully rolling lands, known as the 'Indian Fields.'"

Limestone exists only in boulders upon the surface. Slate is quarried on the farm of Samuel S. Barger in the west part of the town. The soil is a clayey loam near the Lake, a gravelly loam upon the hills, and a mixture of clay and alluvion in the valleys. It is excellent in quality and very fertile.

The Cayuga Southern R. R. extends through the west border of the town, and the Utica, Ithaca and Elmira R. R. crosses the town a little east of the center.

The population of the town in 1875 was 2,418; of whom 2,229 were native; 189 foreign; 2,409 white; and 9 colored. Its area was 24,342 acres; of which 20,222 were improved; 3,805 woodland; and 315 otherwise unimproved.

The inhabitants of Genoa are mainly employed in agriculture. From the earliest settlement of the town they have been distinguished for their industry and thrift, and substantial and enduring wealth has been the result; manifest alike in material, mental and moral progress.

A large portion of that extensive tract known as the "Indian Fields" lies in the central part of this town, and when the first white settlers came in, the Indians had under cultivation several hundred acres of cleared lands within this town. They had also upon this tract extensive burying grounds, one containing about forty acres. This was evidently the site of a large Indian village, probably one of the three mentioned by General Sullivan in his report of the Indian villages destroyed by a detachment of his army upon the east shore of Cayuga Lake. This detachment appears to have crossed this town in two divisions, one following the Indian trail adjacent to the lake, and the other passing through and desolating the Indian Fields. Fruit trees which escaped the hands of these destroyers were standing when the first settlers came in. There is a tradition that the former division camped one night west of John M. King's, and that one of the soldiers died and was buried there. Numerous Indian relics have been found upon these fields and in other localities in the town. At East Genoa, near the center of lot 29, upon slightly elevated ground on the place on which Alex. Bothwell now lives, were plainly discerni-

ble, at an early day, the outlines of a circular cavity six to eight feet in depth and diameter, rudely walled up with stone, the bottom showing that it had been used for some purpose requiring a fire and had evidently been in use a long time. In close proximity to it have been discovered from time to time many stones wrought in different shapes, also beads and other ornaments made of clay, or some substance resembling terra cotta, and tomahawks. On the north part of this lot, a little north of East Genoa, were disclosed, on removing a beech stump, human remains buried in a sitting posture.

The first settler in Genoa was John Clark, who came from Washington county in 1791, and built his cabin a little north of the residence of Martyn H. Chase. A well dug by him remains to mark the spot. He subsequently removed to the north line, near the Indian Fields road, and after a few years to Ohio.

Ebenezer Hoskins and his brother-in-law, Mr. Fink, came in from New London in 1791 or '92. He was a ship cooper, and followed the sea about twenty years before he sought a home in the wilderness. He came all the way in his own boat, and brought his family and household goods with him. He landed at Paines Creek, and walked to Mr. Clark's. He sold his boat for \$9, and with this and sixpence he had in his pocket on his arrival, he commenced life in the new settlement. He settled near the head of the gully, below Ogdens Corners, on the Jump farm. His cabin had neither floor, door nor window. The only protection in the doorway against storms, cold and enemies was a blanket. The beds were made of poles, and arranged one above the other on the sides of his hut. The foundation of the chimney yet remains. Hoskins removed after about four years to Lake Ridge, where he died in 1819. It is said that Aaron Kinney, the first missionary who visited this region, preached in Hoskins' house. Mrs. Adonijah Tillotson, Hoskins' youngest daughter, is the only member of the family living in the town. Fink boarded with Hoskins. He did not bring his family, nor remain long. John Chilsey and his son Anselm, from Susquehanna, came in 1791 or '92, and bought 200 acres where the Presbyterian church in Genoa village stands. His house stood on the site of the second house east of the church. He died there.

William Clark, a surveyor, came in from Washington county, early in the spring of 1792, and settled on the Indian Fields road, on a farm which forms a part of the farm now occupied by Amos J. Hewitt, and died there. He had two sons and two daughters, all of whom are dead. Gamaliel Terry, a Revolutionary soldier, came in from Salisbury, Conn., in 1792, and settled a half mile north of Genoa village, on the farm now occupied by Thomas Buck, where he died March 24th, 1806, aged 47. His wife also died there. His children moved west. Terry took up a large tract of land which has been cut up into several farms. David Armstrong and Amaziah Phillips came in from Goshen, Orange county, in 1792, by the northern water route. From Weeks Corners, to which point an inferior road had been made from the lake, they cut a road to the east part of the town. Armstrong settled on lot 39, which he had previously purchased, a mile south of East Genoa, where Wm. Wilcox lives. He brought with him his family, consisting of his wife and eight children, viz: Enos, Francis, Andrew, Frank, James, John, Polly, afterwards wife of Wm. Clark, and another daughter, who afterwards became the wife of Stephen Hopkins, all of whom are dead. He also brought with him the irons for a saw-mill, which he erected the following year, (1793,) upon a little brook fed by a spring upon the lot, which would now scarcely drive a mill one month in the year; but which, in connection with the annual freshets, then produced a stream which could be relied upon at certain times. This was the first mill built in the town. Shortly after its erection, as his son Francis, who was attending the mill, was eating his breakfast, which had been sent to him, he was unceremoniously put to flight by the appearance of a bear, which at once proceeded to devour the remnant of the meal. While thus engaged, he stood upon the log, which was in motion, and when the saw struck one of his paws, he stood erect upon his hind feet and embraced the offending saw as though it was a living being, and speedily met his death. Armstrong continued to reside there till well advanced in years, when he went to live with a daughter residing in Groton, and died there. His son, John, died in 1793, and was buried in the cemetery on lot 39. The place was then a wilderness, reached only by a foot or cattle path, but was thenceforth made sa-

cred as a place of burial by Mr. Armstrong's generosity, and the foot-path soon became the road to Beardsleys Corners. This is believed to be the first death of a settler in the town. Amaziah Phillips settled near the center of lot 29, where Alex. Bothwell now lives, and was the first settler on the site of East Genoa. He died there many years ago. These pioneers took their grists to Seneca Falls, conveying them by means of a drag, consisting of a crotched pole, to the lake, and thence by raft. Thomas and Wm. Hewitt settled directly east of Genoa village in 1792.

Numerous settlements were made in 1793, and the character of the men who came made them important ones. Capt. Roger Moore, who was taken prisoner in the war of the Revolution, and sent to England with Col. Ethan Allen, came in 1793, and settled in the north-east edge of Genoa village, where Robert Miller now lives, and died there. He drew two military lots. He had three sons, Roger, Samuel and Heman, all of whom are dead. Two of Heman's daughters are living in Genoa, Harriet, widow of Silas Kemp, and Adelia. Samuel and Daniel Wilson, Alex. Henderson, Elder Whipple and Roswell Francis, came together from Fort Ann and Salem, Washington county. Samuel Wilson settled a half mile south of East Genoa, where Rufus Strong now lives, and died there. His family consisted of James, Martha, afterwards wife of Alek Bothwell, Nancy, wife of Elihu Halladay, Olive, afterwards wife of John Guthrie, Polly, afterwards wife of John Stevens, an early settler in Groton, Samuel R., and John, all of whom are dead. Samuel Wilson, a grandson, is living at East Genoa. Daniel Wilson settled in the same locality, and he and his son, John, died on the same farm, the one occupied by Rufus Strong. Five grand-children are living, Samuel, and Mary Jane, wife of Samuel C. Branch, in Genoa, David, in Kansas, and John and William, in Nebraska. Henderson, who was a Scotchman, stopped, on his arrival, with David Armstrong. He cleaned out and moved into one of the latter's outbuildings, said to have been previously occupied by poultry. He was an American soldier in the Revolutionary war. He was taken prisoner and confined in Quebec, but escaped by jumping from a second-story window, with three others, one of whom broke

his leg. He lived to an extreme old age. He purchased a farm on lot 38, a half mile west of Armstrong's.

Nathaniel Walker, Jno. King 2d, (father of Abram, Jno., Marquis D. and Edward P. King,) and two others came from Luzerne county, Pa., to Springport, in 1789. In May, 1790, Mr. King brought in his family and settled near the site of Union Springs, on the Indian Reservation. The following year he was dispossessed by the State, and in February, 1793, he came to Genoa. He built his log house near a spring west of Alanson B. King's, and remained there till the fall of 1794, when he moved to the south side of the gully, near Glenn W. King's. He afterwards built on the north side of the gully. He kept a public house for many years. The first road to the lake ran through his farm, north of the gully. He established the first ferry across the lake. At first it consisted simply of a skiff, but that soon gave place to sail boats. In 1818, James Kidder, Matthew N. Tillotson and David Ogden, Sr., built the first horse boat. It was of vast proportions, propelled by twelve horses and capable of carrying eight wagons and twenty horses at a load. The first steamboat on Cayuga Lake was the *Enterprise*. It was built in Ithaca in 1819, and made the first trip January 1st, 1820. The post office at Northville still perpetuates the name of that ferry, which derived its name from Mr. King, who was largely identified with the early enterprises and interests of this community. Nathaniel Walker, who was a brother-in-law of John King 2d, came in 1793 or the spring of 1794, and settled on the Jno. M. King farm. He removed after a few years to Ontario county. John King 1st, father of John King 2d came from Springport in 1794. His cabin stood near Alanson B. King's barn. His son David, who was unmarried and lived with him, owned, after his father's death, the north half of lot 12. His brother, John 2d, owned the south half and 112 acres in the north-east corner of lot 22, where his son Abram lived. David, son of John King 2d, who was born December 16th, 1790, was probably the first white child born in this county. The King family was a prominent one in the early history of this town. While many of the old families have removed or died out, the Kings have remained and become very numerous. They are without doubt one of the largest families in

southern Cayuga. They have been successful farmers, and but little inclined to trade or speculation. Their well-tilled farms and pleasant homes are monuments of their industry, and make Lake street one of the most beautiful sections of the town. Mrs. David King, who died December 30th, 1876, aged 93, lived where her married life commenced seventy-eight years.

Jonathan Mead, who served seven years as a soldier in the Revolution, drew lot 5 in this town, and in 1792, he and his brother-in-law, John Moe, came to see it. In May, 1793, they and Benj. and Daniel Close came from Greenwich, Conn., and settled upon that lot. The former two brought their families with them. They started in April, and came on a schooner up the Hudson to Catskill, bringing with them a covered wagon and two yokes of oxen. From Catskill they completed the journey by wagon. They came by the State road to Oxford and Owego, to which point that road was little better than marked trees, with some of the underbrush lopped out, while from Owego their's was the first wagon in this direction. They found generous hospitality at the house of John Clark during the few days required to roll together some logs for a temporary home. The journey from Connecticut occupied twenty-six days, and Mrs. Abraham Weeks, daughter of Jonathan Mead, and who, though in her 92d year, is still in the enjoyment of health and strength, and the full possession of all her mental faculties, distinctly remembers how tiresome it was. Benj. Close put up a house and brought his family in that fall. In a letter written to his wife in May of that year, and sent back by his brother Daniel, he says: "We went about ten miles (*i. e.*, to Aurora,) for our papers, and found there a Mr. Barber from Connecticut. They have plenty of peach-trees and some apple-trees. These must have been put out by the Indians."* Mr. Close had at that time four children, the youngest of whom, an infant, Mrs. Close carried all the way from Connecticut on horseback. They arrived in September, and were accompanied by John Weeks, who settled on 100 acres on the south

*A Sermon by Rev. J. S. Jewell, pastor of the *First Presbyterian Church of Genoa*, August 10th, 1873, to which, and to Mr. D. W. Adams of Northville, especially the latter, we take pleasure in acknowledging our indebtedness for much valuable information relative to the early settlement of Genoa, particularly the western part. To Mr. H. Leavenworth, of East Genoa, our thanks are also due for information furnished.

side of lot 5, given him by his brother-in-law Jonathan Mead. He built his cabin on a knoll about seventy rods north of the Kelly school house. He subsequently lived near J. Mead Weeks' present residence. Weeks Corners perpetuates his name. His son Abraham, who lived on the old homestead, was a worthy man and a deacon in the Presbyterian church when he died. His widow, as previously stated, still survives him. Jonathan Mead, after living here some years, moved to Clarkson, and died there.

John Moe built in 1800 or 1802 a frame house which still stands a little south of Lucas Moe's. It is claimed to be the second frame dwelling house built in the town. John Moe, who died six years ago, was a son of his. "He possessed rare business talent, a well-balanced mind, and strict integrity. For over half a century his name was a household word in all this section." Dr. Hiram Moe, another son, attained eminence in the medical profession in Groton. Their brothers, James and Lucas, are still living, the latter on the old homestead. Mary Moe, daughter of John Moe, who was born March 20th, 1794, is said to have been the first white female child born in West Genoa.

Benjamin Close did not leave his religion in Connecticut when he came. Soon after he arrived with his family, in the fall of 1793, he opened his house for public worship on the Sabbath, and those meetings were continued till the Presbyterian church was organized. He was one of the original sixteen who entered into church fellowship August 13th, 1798. He was elected deacon in 1806, and held that office thirty years. William and Rev. Reuben Close, sons of Benjamin, are living, the former on the homestead and the latter in Elmira.

Zadoc Weeks came in 1794, and settled on twenty-five acres given him by his father, in the south-west corner of lot 5, where Orliff Bourne now lives. In 1790, Gilbert, Jonathan, Thurston and Perez Brownell came from Little Compton, Rhode Island, and commenced work on the Indian Reservation, north of Aurora. They were dispossessed by the sheriff and built a cabin near R. N. Atwater's residence in Ledyard, one and one-half miles north of the south line. In the spring of 1791, Perez brought his family in. Jonathan brought his wife in 1792. Their father, Pardon Brownell, bought lot 23 in Genoa, and

gave Gilbert 200 acres on the east side, Thurston, 200 on the west, and Perez, 200 in the middle. Perez moved on his land in the spring of 1793. His house was west of J. G. Barger's stone quarry. Gilbert came and lived with him. Mrs. Brownell's sister Amy was a member of the family. November 4th, 1793, Gilbert and Amy were married. The marriage certificate is in the possession of their daughter, Mrs. Clarissa Chadwick, and reads: "This certifies that Gilbert Brownell and Amy Grinnell were joined in marriage November 4th, 1793, by Aaron Kinne, minister of the gospel and missionary in the western settlements." "The incidents connected with this event are somewhat romantic. It seems a contract of marriage was made between them, but unfortunately there was neither civil officer nor settled minister who could make them one. It was agreed that when the missionary came they would be married. After weeks and months of delay Mr. Kinne called at Perez Brownell's. Gilbert was at work some distance from the house engaged in logging. Amy blew a conch shell, (now in possession of Mrs. Chadwick,) and called her soon-to-be-husband. Soiled and besmeared Gilbert came in and without change of raiment stood up before the man of God, and they were married. Immediately after the ceremony was performed he went back to his toil." This was probably the first marriage in the town. Gilbert built his house and lived a little south-east of J. G. Barger's residence. A few old apple trees mark the locality. Perez subsequently sold to Joseph Goodyear, and then Gilbert exchanged farms with Goodyear. Gilbert bought Thurston's lands, and eventually owned a large portion of lot 22. He lived and died where H. S. King lives. Of a family of nine children, three only remain, Edmund, Mrs. Clarissa Chadwick and Mrs. John H. Carter. Perez subsequently removed to Ohio and died there. Thurston went to Philadelphia. Jonathan remained in Ledyard. He built the house where Charles E. Slocum lives and died there. His daughters were reigning belles in their day and were much admired.

John, Eben, Daniel and Josiah Guthrie, who settled in Springport in 1790, came to this town about 1793, and lived near McGuigans Corners, about three miles south-west of Northville. John, who was a single man, worked out in Springport during the summer, and during the fall cut wild